STATEMENT-III

Steps being taken for maintenance of Telephone/Telephone Exchanges in Rural Areas

1. Replacement of old and life-expired exchanges.
2. Upgradation of out-door plant.
3. Refresher training for the staff for improving the skill.
4. Replacement of long over-head lines by reliable transmission system.
5. Provision of rural public telephone on radio relay system.
6. Daily testing and close monitoring of rural telephones/Telephone exchanges.

[Translation]

Working Hour for Women

3342. SHRI PAWAN DIWAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the women/ girls working in the factories are required to sit late after the stipulated time of working hours, due to which they feel insecurity while coming back to their homes; and

(b) if so the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to make the provision for not allowing the women to sit late?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b). Under section 66 of the Factories Act, 1948, no woman can be required or allowed to work in any factory except between the hours of 6.00 A.M. and 7.00 P.M. However, the State Government may by notification in the Official Gazette, in respect of any factory or group or class or description of factories, vary the limits stated above but no such variation can authorise the employment of any woman between the hours of 10.00 P.M. and 5.00 A.M. The State Governments may make rules providing for exemption from the restriction of hours of work between 10.00 P.M. to 5.00 A.M. for women working in fishcuring or fish-canning factories to prevent damage to or deterioration of any raw material. The responsibility of enforcing the above provisions rests with State Governments/ Union Territories.

[English]

Irregularities in Providing New Connections

3343. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received by the Government during 1994, 1995 & 1996 (till date) in respect of malpractices/ irregularities/corruption committed while providing new telephone connections in West Bengal, District-wise and particularly in Coochbehar;

(b) the action taken thereon; and

(c) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken to check the recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). Twenty-five complaints were received by the Govt. during 1994, 1995 & 1996 (till date). District-wise break-up and action taken against the involved officials is given in the *Statement* enclosed.

(c) All Heads of SSAs/Field Officers have been asked to be more vigilant while providing new telephone connections.

STATEMENT

Sl. No.	Name of District	1994		1995		1996 (till date)	
		No. of complaints	Action taken	No. of complaints	Action taken	No. of complaints	Action taken
1.	Burdwan	1	Disc. action taken against the official involved	1	Case investigated. No irregularity detected	1	Official involved transferred & disc. action is being taken.
2.	Birbhum	1	-do-	Nil	–	1	Warning issued to the concerned official.

Sl. No.	Name of District	1994		1995		1996 (till date)	
		No. of complaints	Action taken	No. of complaints	Action taken	No. of complaints	Action taken
3.	Darjeeling	1	Disc. action under process against the involved officer	Nil	–	Nil	–
4.	Malda	1	Warning issued	1	Disc. action taken against the involved Officer	Nil	–
5.	Nadia	1	Case investigated. No irregularity detected	Nil	–	Nil	–
6.	Coochbehar	Nil	–	1	Official involved transferred & disc. action taken	Nil	–
7.	North 24 Prgs.	Nil	–	1	Disc. action being taken against the involved Officer	1	–
8.	South 24 Prgs.	Nil	–	Nil	–	1	Case investigated. No irregularity detected.
9	Calcutta Telephones	10	In 7 cases investigation has not revealed any irregularity. In 2 cases, minor technical irregularities were found which were subsequently rectified. In one case, suspected official has been cautioned	1	The case is under investigation by CBI	1	Disc. action has been initiated against the delinquent official.